



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus:

The main focus of WRP in North Dakota is to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species.

Customer Focus:

Brad and Lola Sigvaldson's ranch is north of Lemmon, South Dakota, along the Cedar River in Adams County. They used the WRP and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife Program to restore the 57-acre wetland in this pasture that had been drained years ago. They appreciate seeing wildlife on the ranch, including waterfowl. They are also implementing a rotational grazing system to improve habitat. The duck nest they found this spring was on a hillside that had good residual cover to attract the hen.



North Dakota Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary wetland restoration program designed to assist eligible landowners in restoring and protecting wetlands using three enrollment options. These options include permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements. In North Dakota, only the 30-year easement and restoration cost-share agreement options are available due to State law which prohibits permanent wetland easements. The main focus of WRP in North Dakota has been to provide habitat for wildlife and migratory birds, including threatened and endangered species. North Dakota is a major player in the production of ducks, Canada geese, and other waterfowl in North America.

Accomplishments

From 1995 through 2001, North Dakota funded 66 contracts covering 11,677 acres. These contracts consist of 52 easements on 9,883 acres and 14 agreements on 1,794 acres. Producers are waiting funding to develop another 12 easements to restore 3,850 acres of wetland/upland complexes. In 2001, NRCS technical staff provided \$200,000 worth of technical assistance to private landowners in developing wetland habitat projects worth \$2.5 million.

Program Benefits

The three types of WRP projects most often enrolled are prairie pothole restoration, flood plain restoration, and riparian corridor. The main function of pothole restoration is for waterfowl production, while the main function of flood plain restoration is to contain flood flows and to improve water quality. Riparian corridors connect protected areas, providing a safe corridor for wildlife. WRP restoration activities often involve filling in drainage ditches, installing water control structures, and planting native vegetation. North Dakota NRCS has developed several partnerships to restore wetlands under WRP. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Dakota Natural Resources Trust have both provided financial incentives to landowners for restoration practices. To date, they have committed approximately \$145,800 towards native grass seedings and ditch plugs. Another partnering effort is with the North Dakota State Waterbank program, where the WRP provides cost-share assistance, and the ND State Department of Agriculture provides land payments for 10-year agreements to restore wetlands.

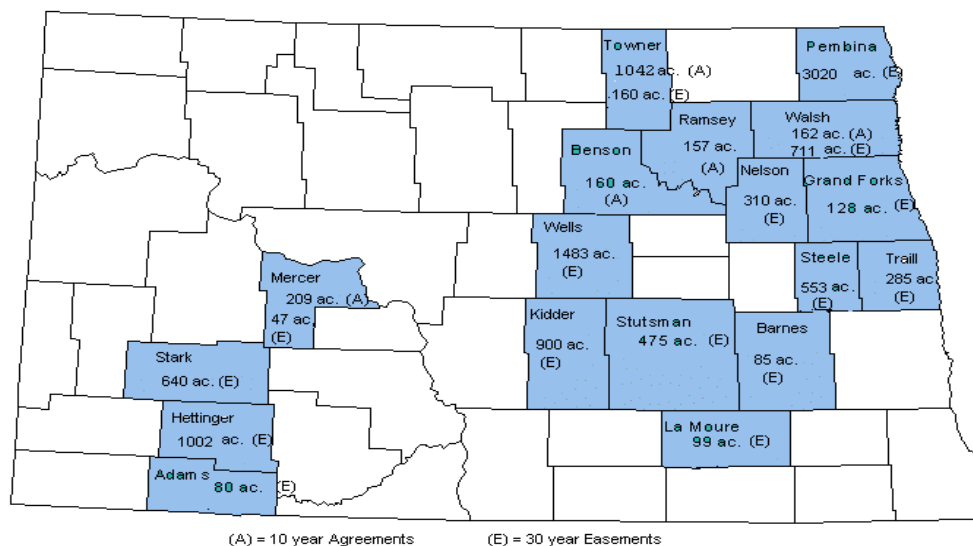
State Contact

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WRP

Total Acres Enrolled by County

September 2001



North Dakota Dollars and Contracts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (1995-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$2,500,000	20	\$5,627,000	66
State Totals	\$2,500,000	20	\$5,627,000	66

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